

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 2 has been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Foss et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,825, herein “Foss”); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kraft et al. (U.S. Patent 6,282,904, herein “Kraft”); and Claims 4-8 were indicated as allowed, and Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indications that Claims 4-8 are allowed, and that Claims 2 and 3 include allowable subject matter.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein, and to better point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Amended Claim 2 finds support at page 10, lines 3-15 of the specification, and Figure 1, for example. No new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Foss, and the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kraft are now moot in view of Claims 1 and 9 being canceled.

In light of the prior indication of the allowed claims and the allowable subject matter, and the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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